modified bitumen in improving the performance of the roads. The study was completed in the year 2000.

(b) and (e) The use of polymer/rubber modified bitumen has been proposed for surfacing works of improvement projects on Eastern and Western Express Highways in an aggregate length of 42.70 kilometers in Mumbai. The work on these projects is expected to be completed by October 2005.

National Highway projects in Karnataka

416. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI LALIT SURI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)the number of National highway projects that were approved in the last five years by Government and the financial outlay involved;

(b)the number out of these that have been completed and which are yet to be completed;

(c)whether any time-frame has been prescribed for the purpose;

(d)if so, to what extent implementation is according to the schedule;

(e)how many of these are located in Karnataka; and

(f) the investment involved, project-wise and by when they are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) During the last five years, 3661 works for improvement works on National Highways with an aggregate cost of Rs.8154.71 crore were approved. Out of these 2613 works have been completed and balance 1048 works are in progress.

In addition to this, the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) in two phases *i.e.* NHDP Phase-I costing Rs.30,300 crore (at 1999 price) and Phase-ll costing Rs.34,339 crore (at 2002 price) for widening to 4-lanes for a total length of 14,279 km of National Highways were approved

during this period. Of these, works for length of 5,528 km of National Highways have been completed till 31.01.2005.

(c) and.(d) the project specific time frame for completion of a project is decided at the time of approval based on the nature and scope of work. Generally, the works are implemented according to the schedule.

(e) and (f) 250 works amounting to Rs.394.68 crore were sanctioned during last five years for the National Highways in Karnataka. Out of this, 249 works costing Rs.385.35 crore have been completed and the remaining one work costing to Rs.9.33 crore is targeted for completion by February 2006. In addition to this, a lenght of 752 km of National Highways under NHDP in the State of Karnataka has been approved and targeted for completion by December,2007.

Development of cruise shipping

417. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to go in for cruise shipping to develop and tap its immense economic potential;

(b) if so, the details of the project;

(c) whether a High Powered Committee has gone into this issue; and

(d) if so, its salient recommendations thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to formulate a cruise shipping policy with the objective to make India a major cruise tourism destination for attracting the right segment of foreign cruise tourists and for popularizing cruise shipping with Indian tourists.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The recommendations of this Committee are awaited.